Rs. 13,200 crore for the Tenth Plan and Rs. 2167 crore for Annual Plan 2002-03.

Special fund for agriculture development

†2786. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a special fund for development of agriculture;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps in this direction, so far;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Development of Agriculture Universities

†2787. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any scheme for development of agriculture universities of the country and modernisation of education therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount proposed to be allocated to each agriculture university for the purpose;

(c) whether any amount had been allocated for development of agriculture universities during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, whether this amount was sufficient?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. There is an on going scheme on Development and Strengthening of State Agricultural Univerisities under which need based support is provided for strengthening and modernisation of educational programmes in the universities.

(b) Between Rs. 5 to 7.5 crores is being proposed to each university in Tenth plan based upon number of institutions, types and strength of the programmes, intake and out turn of graduates etc.

(c) Yes, Sir, an amount of Rs. 131.30 crores was allocated for development and strengthening of Agricultural Universities during the Ninth plan period.

(d) In order to meet global challenges and make education relevant to the present day context, higher financial support to State Agricultural Universities is needed.

Development of hybrid onion

2788. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Agricultural Research Institute has successfully developed the world's first hybrid onion yield;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the on-farm trials of the new yield have been completed; and

(d) by when commercial cultivation of the crop is expected to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. Indian Agricultural Research Institute has developed its first onion hybrid but it is not first in the world.

(b) The onion hybrid has been developed using male sterile line to reduce the cost of hybrid seed. It gives on an average 25% higher yield over commercial cultivar Pusa Red.

(c) The yield trial at Indian Agricultural Research Institute have been completed and it is being introduced under All India